

Message Text

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15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12468

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY, XE

SUBJECT: STORMFURY: WMO TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

REF: A) MANILA 12266; B) TOKYO 9871, JULY 30

1. WMO TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON TYPHOON MODIFICATION, MANILA, OCTOBER 15 TO 18, CONCLUDED BY ADOPTING RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT WMO SUPPORT EXPERIMENTS PROPOSED BY THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES. TEXT OF RESOLUTION AS TRANSCRIBED BY SECRETARY FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE WMO TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON TYPHOON MODIFICATION (MANILA -OCTOBER 15-18, 1974) RECOMMEND TO WMO TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT ANY UNDERTAKING WHICH IS AIMED AT INCREASING OUR KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING THE NATURE AND PROPERTIES OF TYPHOONS (HURRICANES). OF PARTICULAR CONCERN ARE IMPROVED FORECASTING SKILLS AND STUDIES INSITU AND THEORETICAL/NUMERICAL STUDIES ON THE DETAILS OF TYPHOON DYNAMICS AND MICRO-PHYSICS. THE SUBSTANTIAL (ABOUT 25 PERCENT AS ESTIMATED FOR HONG KONG AND THE CARRIBEAN) CONTRIBUTION OF TYPHOONS TO THE ANNUAL RAINFALL REPRESENTS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY PRECIPITATION FOR
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FOOD PRODUCTION AND OTHER ECONOMIC BENEFITS IN THE

COUNTRIES CONCERNED. ON THE OTHER HAND DAMAGES IN FORM OF STORM SURGES, AND THOSE DUE TO WIND AND EXCESSIVE RAINFALL LEADING TO FLOODING (AND LANDSLIDES) MAKE IT IMPERATIVE TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO DECREASE WIND DAMAGE, AND EXCESSIVE RAINFALL FROM TYPHOONS FOLLOWING EACH OTHER VERY CLOSELY- WITHOUT DECREASING TOTAL RAINFALL BUT BY DISTRIBUTING IT OVER A WIDER AREA.

THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT WMO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SUPPORT EXPERIMENTS PROPOSED BY THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WHICH ARE NOT ONLY AIMED AT LEARNING MORE ABOUT TYPHOON PROPERTIES, BUT ALSO AT WAYS AND MEANS TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE DAMAGES (USING PROVEN PHYSICALLY AND STATISTICALLY ACCEPTABLE METHODS).

WMO IS FURTHER ASKED TO ARRANGE, ON A REGIONAL BASIS, THE ACCEPTANCE OF A '24-HOUR LIMIT' FOR TYPHOON INTERFERENCE, I.E. THE SEEDING OF TYPHOONS ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS AS LONG AS THEY ARE NOT EXPECTED TO REACH LAND WITHIN 24 HOURS. (THIS REQUIREMENT CAN BE WAIVED BY WMO MEMBERS).

A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE IS SUPPOSED TO COME UP WITH AN ACCEPTABLE FORECASTING TECHNIQUE.

WHILE ONE SOUND PREDICTION CAN BE MADE AT THIS TIME ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF TYPHOON MODERATION EXPERIMENTS, INVESTIGATIONS ABOUT THE EFFECT OF OPERATIONAL TYPHOON SEEDING SHOULD ALSO BE ENCOURAGED AT THIS TIME IN ORDER TO ALLOW A POSSIBLE SMOOTH PHASING IN OF OPERATIONS AFTER EXPERIMENTAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES HAVE LED TO POSITIVE CONCLUSIONS, AND THEORETICAL STUDIES HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT TYPHOON MODERATION DOES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE REGIONAL AND WORLDWIDE CLIMATE.

ANOTHER WMO TECHNICAL CONFERENCE IS RECOMMENDED FOR 1978. END QUOTE.

2. RESOLUTION WAS DRAFTED AND TABLED AT INITIATIVE OF CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, DR. ROLAND LIST FROM UNIVERSITY OF
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TORONTO WHO REPRESENTED WMO IN CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF TWO WMO TECHNICAL COMMITTEES. IN DISCUSSION JAPANESE DELEGATE, DR. M. MIYASAKI, DIRECTOR OF TYPHOON RESEARCH LABORATORY, QUESTIONED WHETHER 24 HOUR LIMIT FOR TYPHOON SEEDING, THAT IS, MORE THAN 24 HOURS BEFORE TYPHOON EXPECTED TO REACH LAND, WAS SUFFICIENT. HIS OBSERVATIONS WERE SURPRISINGLY ANSWERED BY MALAYSIAN DELEGATE WHO RECOMMENDED ONLY 12 HOUR LIMIT. RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED

WITH NO OBJECTIONS, JAPAN AND USSR NOT VOTING.

3. GOP SPOKE UP IN FAVOR OF STORMFURY TRANSFER BUT AT A LOW KEY, WHICH IS INEXPLICABLE IN VIEW OF ITS PAST VOCAL AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR TRANSFER OF STORMFURY. TWO DEVELOPMENTS INDICATE THAT GOP MAY HAVE BEEN DEFERRING TO JAPANESE RESERVATIONS. ONE, COL. MACABUHAY RECOMMENDED IN PRIVATE THAT WE MAKE MAJOR PUSH NEXT YEAR, AND SECOND, BOLLAY GOT DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT ROBERTO REYES MADE HURRIED TRIP TO JAPAN (REFTEL) AT INVITATION OF JAPANESE RATHER THAN AT GOP INITIATIVE TO WIN OVER JAPANESE. THESE DEVELOPMENTS DO NOT SUPPORT EARLIER VIEW THAT LACK OF GOP ENTHUSIASM MAY LIE IN ABSENCE OF MELCHOR AND KINTANAR FROM CONFERENCE. SULLIVAN

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